

What will the relationship be of the Complete Streets Policy to County Plans, Guidelines, Regulations and Standards?

Howard County is currently working on developing a Complete Streets Policy that will serve as the vision and official county statement of intent for how streets should accommodate all users and all modes of transportation to the maximum extent practicable, as the County continues to grow and evolve. The Complete Streets Policy will be incorporated into the Howard County Design Manual, Volume III, Roads and Bridges, and will provide the guidance for technical changes to that volume of the Design Manual.

Volume III of the Design Manual provides technical criteria and standards on road design, construction and operation. Changes to the Design Manual, based on the Complete Streets Policy, will help provide access to modes of transportation, including, but not limited to, bicycle, pedestrian, transit, and vehicular. In order to better understand the impact the Complete Streets Policy and the changes to the Design Manual will have, it is important to understand how these documents will interact with other existing Howard County documents.

Howard County has a variety of plans and guidelines for various purposes, and these include:

- PlanHoward 2030
 - Downtown Columbia Plan
- Downtown Guidelines
 - Neighborhood Guidelines
- Bicycle Master Plan
- Pedestrian Master Plan
- Transit Development Plan
- Corridor Plans for:
 - Route 1
 - Route 40
 - Route 108

These plans and guidelines provide recommendations or they provide guidance on improvements, such as recommended streetscape upgrades. These all serve as recommendations. Proposed development projects should conform to the recommendations to the best of their ability, but they are *not required* to do so.

About the Design Manual

The Roads and Bridges Design Manual is volume III of four volumes of the Design Manual and provides technical standards/criteria on road design, construction, and operation with which projects are required to conform. These specifications apply to all public facilities associated with land development projects submitted to the County for approval and to projects conducted by the County. Projects submitted to the County would, in addition, have to follow the

subdivision and land development process. Any changes to the Design Manual will be coordinated with the subdivision regulations, as the Design Manual and the subdivision regulations go hand in hand in defining the requirements a private project must go through in order to be compliant with County regulations.

The diagram below illustrates the relationship of policies such as the Complete Streets Policy to plans and other guides and to regulations and standards.

